Light at the end of the tunnel

R.V.Guha Google

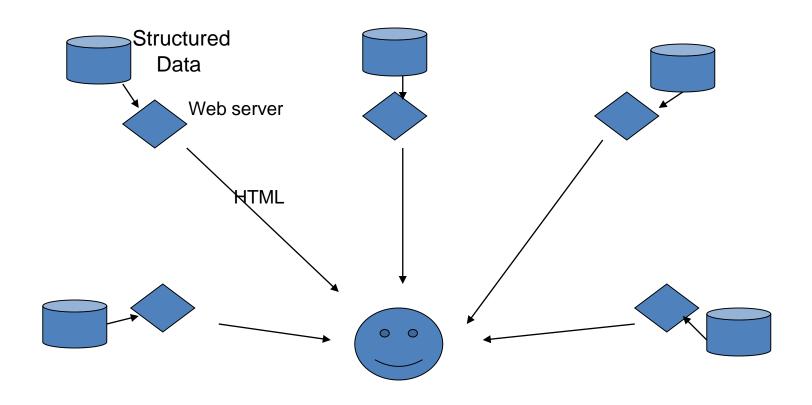
Outline of talk

- How did we end up here ... a personal perspective
 - The tortuous path through standards and products
- Schema.org
 - Why schema.org, principles, how does it work
 - Status: schemas, adoption, partners, applications
- Reports from Google, Bing, Yahoo! & Yandex
- Looking forward: Schemas in the pipeline, Research problems

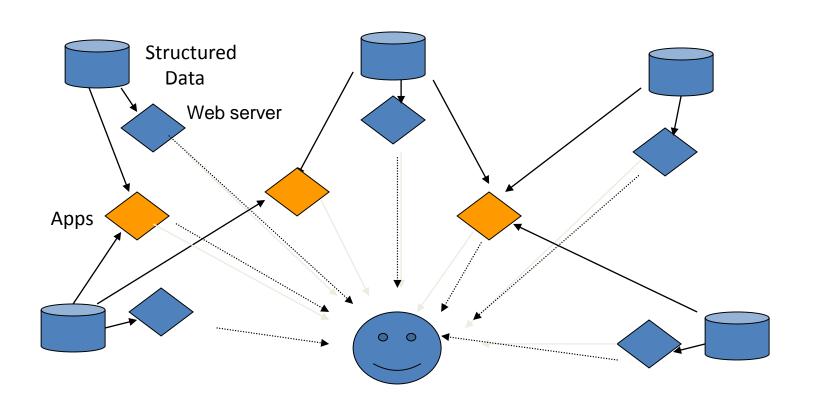
One day, 16 years ago, ...

- Ralph Swick, Ora Lasilla, Tim Bray, Eric Miller and myself
- Trying to make sense of a flurry of activity
 - XML, MCF, CDF, Sitemaps, ...
- There were a number of problems
 - PICS, Meta data, sitemaps, ...
- But one unifying idea

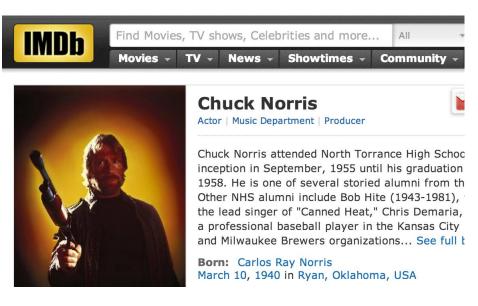
Context: The Web for humans



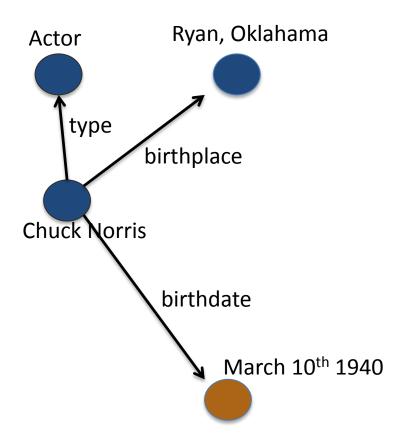
Goal: Web for Machines & Humans



What does that mean?







How do we get there?

- How does the author give us the graph
 - Data Model
 - Syntax
 - Vocabulary
 - Identifiers for objects

Why should the author give us the graph?

Going depth first

- Many heated battles
 - Lot of proposals, standards, companies, ...
- Data model
 - Trees vs DLGs vs Vertical specific vs who needs one?
- Syntax
 - XML vs RDF vs json vs ...
- Model theory anyone
 - We need one vs who cares vs what's that?

Timeline of 'standards'

- '96: Meta Content Framework (MCF) (Apple)
- '97: MCF using XML (Netscape) → RDF, CDF
- '99 -- : RDF, RDFS
- '01 -- : DAML, OWL, OWL EL, OWL QL, OWL RL
- '03: Microformats
- And many many more ... SPARQL, Turtle, N3, GRDDL, R2RML, FOAF, SIOC, SKOS, ...

 Lots of bells & whistles: model theory, inferencing, type systems, ...

But something was missing ...

- Fewer than 10k sites were using these standards
- Something was clearly missing and it wasn't more language features
- We had forgotten the 'Why' part of the problem
- The RSS story

'07 - :Rise of the consumers

- Yahoo! Search Monkey, Google Rich Snippets, Facebook Open Graph
- Offer webmasters a simple value proposition
- Search engines to webmasters:
 - You give us data ... we make your results nicer
- Usage begins to take off
 - 1000x increase in markup'ed up pages in 3 years

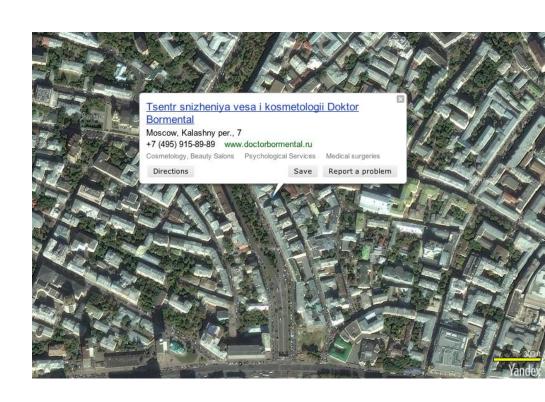
Yahoo Search Monkey

- Give websites control over snippet presentation
- Moderate adoption
 - Targeted at high end developers
 - Too many choices



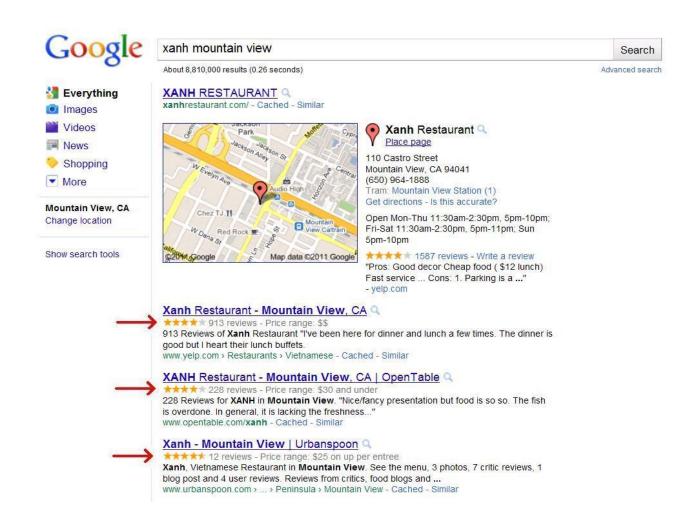
Yandex Enhanced Snippets & Services

- Snippets for Web Search
- Data for Vertical Search
 Services
- Various syntax and vocabularies
- Yandex specific vocabs for unexamined use cases

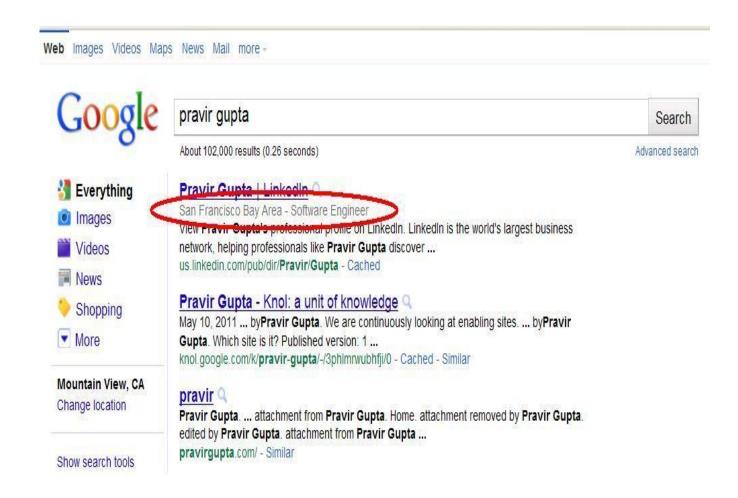




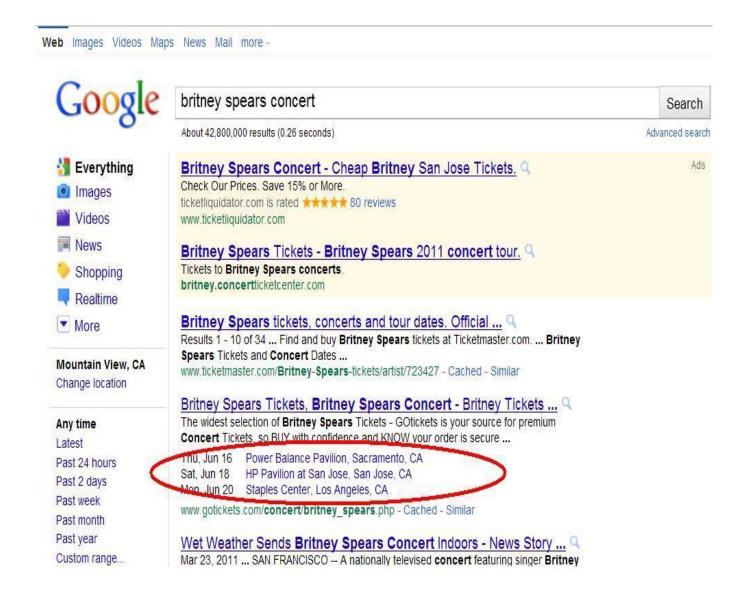
Google Rich Snippets: Reviews



Google Rich Snippets: People



Google Rich Snippets: Events



Google Rich Snippets: Recipes



tiramisu recipe

×

Search

About 493,000 results (0.25 seconds)

Advanced search















San Francisco, CA Change location

All results

Sites with images

More search tools

Tiramisu Recipes - Allrecipes.com

Looking for tiramisu recipes? Allrecipes has more than 20 trusted tiramisu recipes complete with ratings, reviews and baking tips.

Easy Tiramisu - Tiramisu II - Photo of - Emily's Famous Tiramisu allrecipes.com/recipes/desserts/tiramisu/ - Cached - Similar

► Classic Tiramisu Recipe - Allrecipes.com Q

*** 531 reviews - 2 hrs - 568 cal

Classic Italian dessert made with ladyfingers and mascarpone cheese. It can ... allrecipes.com/recipe/classic-tiramisu/ - Cached - Similar

Tiramisu | Recipe - Allrecipes.com Q



*** ★ 478 reviews - 5 hrs - 387 cal

Mascarpone custard layered with whipped cream and rum and coffee soaked \ldots

allrecipes.com/recipe/tiramisu-ii/ - Cached - Similar

♣ Show more results from allrecipes.com

Tiramisu Recipe :: Food Network Q



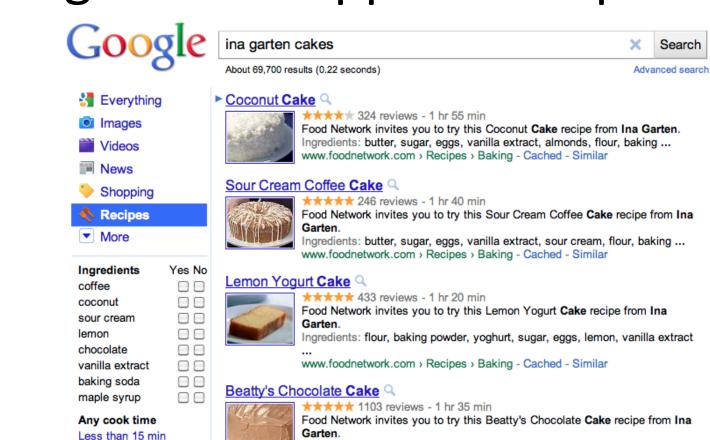
★★★★ 59 reviews - 2 hr 25 min

Jun 1, 2011 ... Food Network invites you to try this **Tiramisu recipe**. www.foodnetwork.com > Recipes > Italian - Cached - Similar

Tiramisu Recipes - Tiramisu: Heaven In Your Mouth

But essentially, the recipes present Tiramisu in its purest form. ... Tiramisu recipes tend to fall into three categories: (1) Basic recipes that are more ... Basic Tiramisu Recipes - Variety Recipes (19) - Healthy Recipes (22) www.heavenlytiramisu.com/recipes.htm - Cached - Similar

Google Rich Snippets: Recipe View



Any calories

Less than 300 cal Less than 300 cal Less than 500 cal

Less than 30 min

Less than 60 min

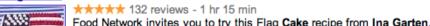
Lemon Cake

★★★★ 223 reviews - 1 hr 30 min
Food Network invites you to try this Lemon Cake recipe from Ina Garten.
Ingredients: butter, sugar, eggs, lemon, flour, baking powder, baking soda ...
www.foodnetwork.com > Recipes > Baking - Cached - Similar

Ingredients: butter, flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, milk ...

www.foodnetwork.com > Recipes > Baking - Cached - Similar

Flag Cake Q



Google Rich Snippets

- Multi-syntax
- Adhoc vocabulary for each vertical
- Very clear carrot
- Lots of experimentation on UI
- Moderately successful
- Scaling issues with vocabulary

Situation in 2010

- Too many choices/decisions for webmasters
 - Divergence in vocabularies
 - Too much fragmentation
 - N versions of person, address, ...
- A lot of bad/wrong markup
 - ~25% for microformats, ~40% with RDFA
 - Some spam, mostly unintended mistakes
- Absolute adoption numbers still rather low
 - Less than 100k sites

In the meantime ...

- The Web has grown
 - >25 million independent active sites
 - Trillions of web pages
 - ~5 billion pages change every day
 - Spam, malware, ...

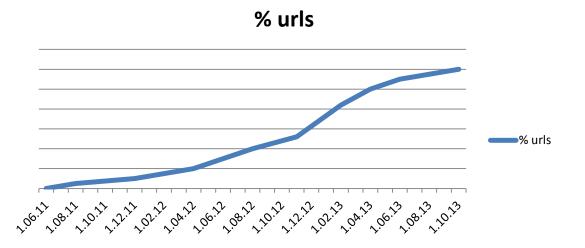
In other words: scaling problems along every dimension

Schema.org

- Work started in August 2010
 - Google, Yahoo!, Microsoft & then Yandex
- Goals:
 - One vocabulary understood by all the search engines
 - Make it very easy for the webmaster
- It is <u>A</u> vocabulary. Not <u>The</u> vocabulary.
 - Webmasters can use it together other vocabs
 - We might not understand the other vocabs. Others might

Schema.org: report card

- Over 15% of all sites/pages now have schema.org
- Over 5 million sites, over 25 billion entity references
- In other words
 - Same order of magnitude as the web
 - Not just 'promising new stuff' anymore



Schema.org: Major sites

- News: Nytimes, guardian.com, bbc.co.uk,
- Movies: imdb, rottentomatoes, movies.com
- Jobs / careers: careerjet.com, monster.com, indeed.com
- People: linkedin.com,
- Products: ebay.com, alibaba.com, sears.com, cafepress.com, sulit.com, fotolia.com
- Videos: youtube, dailymotion, frequency.com, vinebox.com
- Medical: cvs.com, drugs.com
- Local: yelp.com, allmenus.com, urbanspoon.com
- Events: wherevent.com, meetup.com, zillow.com, eventful
- Music: last.fm, myspace.com, soundcloud.com

Schema.org: categories

- Most used categories by occurrence
 - Person, Offer, Product, PostalAddress, VideoObject,
 ImageObject, BlogPosting, WebPage, Article,
 AggregateRating, LocalBusiness, Place, Organization,
 MusicRecording, JobPosting, Recipe, Book, Movie, Blog,
 Photograph, ImageGallery
- Most used categories by domains
 - ImageObject, WebPage, PostalAddress, BlogPosting,
 Product, Person, Offer, Article, LocalBusiness, Organization,
 Blog, AggregateRating, Review, VideoObject, Place, Event,
 Rating, AudioObject, MusicRecording, Store

Schema.org: properties

- Top properties by occurrence
 - name, url, image, description, offers, author, price, thumbnailUrl, datePublished, addressLocality, address, itemOffered, duration, streetAddress, isFamilyFriendly, priceCurrency, playerType, paid, regionsAllowed, postalCode, hiringOrganization, jobLocation,
- Top properties by domain
 - Name, description, url, image, contentURL, address, author, telephone, price, postalCode, offers, ratingValue, priceCurrency, datePublished, addressRegion, availability, email, bestRating, creator, review, location, startDate

Schema.org principles: Simplicity

- Simple things should be simple
 - For webmasters, not necessarily for consumers of markup
 - Webmasters shouldn't have to deal with N namespaces
- Complex things should be possible
 - Advanced webmasters should be able to mix and match vocabularies
- Syntax
 - Microdata, usability studies
 - RDFa, json-ld, ...

Schema.org principles: Simplicity

- Can't expect webmasters to understand Knowledge Representation, Semantic Web Query Languages, etc.
- It has to fit in with existing workflows
- Avoid KR system driven artifacts
 - domainIncludes/rangeIncludes
 - No classes like 'Agent'
 - Categories and attributes should be concrete

Schema.org principles: Simplicity

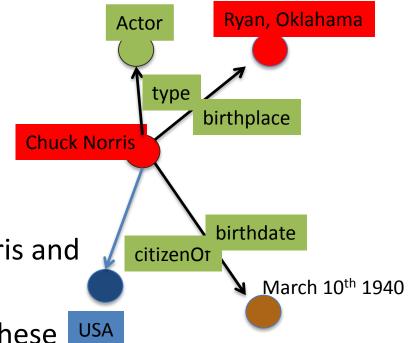
- Copy and edit as the default mode for authors
 - It is not a linear spec, but a tree of examples
- Vocabularies
 - Authors only need to have local view
 - But schema.org tries to have a single global coherent vocabulary

Schema.org principles: Incremental

- Started simple
 - ~ 100 categories at launch
- Applies to every area
 - Add complexity after adoption
 - now ~1200 vocab items
 - Go back and fill in the blanks
- Move fast, accept mistakes, iterate fast

Schema.org Principles: URIs

- ~1000s of terms like Actor, birthdate
 - ~10s for most sites
 - Common across sites
- ~10ks of terms like USA
 - External enumerations
- ~10m-100m terms like Chuck Norris and Ryan, Oklahama
 - Cannot expect agreement on these
 - Consumers can reconcile entity references



Schema.org Principles: Collaborations

- Most discussions on public W3C lists
- Work closely with interest communities
- Work with others to incorporate their vocabularies
 - We give them attribution on schema.org
 - Webmasters should not have to worry about where each piece of the vocabulary came from
 - Webmasters can mix and match vocabs

Schema.org Principles: Collaborations

- IPTC /NYTimes / Getty with rNews
- Martin Hepp with Good Relations
- US Veterans, Whitehouse, Indeed.com with Job Posting
- Creative Commons with LRMI
- NIH National Library of Medicine for Medical vocab.
- Bibextend, Highwire Press for Bibliographic vocabulary
- Benetech for Accessibility
- BBC, European Broadcasting Union for TV & Radio schema
- Stackexchange, SKOS group for message board
- Lots and lots and lots of individuals

Schema.org Principles: Partners

- Partner with Authoring platforms
 - Drupal, Wordpress, Blogger, YouTube

- Drupal 8
 - Schema.org markup for many types
 - News articles, comments, users, events, ...



- More schema.org types can be created by site author
- Markup in HTML5 & RDFa Lite
- Coming out early 2014

Schema.org & W3C

- Web Schemas vocabulary discussion
 Part of W3C Semantic Web Interest Group
- W3C Community Group(s)
 e.g. http://w3.org/community/schemabibex/
- Wiki, Mercurial, email lists, ...
 Informal collaboration rather than classic standardization
 Ideas for extending schema.org welcomed
 Also room this week Thu/Fri, see blog.schema.org

W3C Data Activity

- Subsumes & expands on Sem Web & eGov
- Success for Sem Web in several communities who publish self-describing, re-usable structured data
- schema.org makes it easier for developers to use common vocabulary
- W3C pleased with the success of schema.org and continues to encourage data formats that support mixing of vocabs

Schema.Org Usage @ MS

Today

- Used primarily to support Bing's Rich Captions
- Also recommended for Windows 8 App Contracts

Tomorrow

- Extended usage in Rich Captions and Bing Search
- Development support via new Bing Platform Dev Center
- Innovative experiences in other Microsoft products

Bing Rich Captions

Apple Pie by Grandma Ople Recipe - Allrecipes.com

allrecipes.com/Recipe/Apple-Pie-by-Grandma-Ople ▼



**** Rating: 4.8/5 · 5,404 reviews · 878 photos

"This was my grandmother's **apple pie** recipe. I have never seen another one quite like it. It will always be my favorite and has won me several first ...

Qi Lu - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qi_Lu ~

Lu Qi PhD, more commonly known as Qi Lu in English, is currently Executive Vice President at Microsoft, leading the company's work on the Bing ...

Skyfall (2012) - IMDb

www.imdb.com/title/tt1074638 >

**** Rating: 7.8/10 · 338,805 ratings · Action/Adventure/Thriller · PG-13 Title: **Skyfall** (2012) 7.8 /10. Want to share IMDb's rating on your own site? Use the HTML below. Show HTML View more styles ...

- Ensure your Schema.Org annotations represent the primary content on the page -> ensures correct caption data is shown
- Ensure your Schema.Org annotations are appropriate and relevant to the content of the page -> improves your chances of being shown
- Rich Captions do not support RDFa 1.1 or JSON-LD -> stick with RDFa 1.0 or Microdata for now

Relevant Links

Bing Platform Dev Center

http://www.bing.com/dev/en-us/dev-center

Bing Webmaster Tools (including Markup Validator)

http://www.bing.com/toolbox/webmaster/

Site Markup Guidance

http://www.bing.com/webmaster/help/marking-up-your-site-with-structured-data-3a93e731

Yahoo! Search

Rich results

- Blanco et al. Enhanced Results for Web Search, SIGIR 2011
- Mika & Potter. Metadata Statistics for a Large Web Corpus, LDOW 2012

Parcel 104 - Santa Clara, CA - Yelp, Inc.

www.yelp.com/biz/parcel-104-santa-clara?start=120 Cached

★★★★★ - (408) 970-6104 - Categories: American (New), Bars.

2700 Mission College Blvd Santa Clara, CA 95054 (408) 970-6104



Related entities

- Blanco et al.Entity recommendations in Web Search
- Wed 15:15 Search track

barcelona

Related Points Of Interest



Sagrada Familia



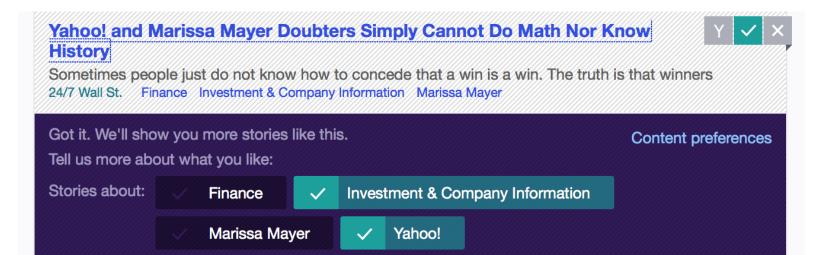
Las Ramblas



Casa Milà

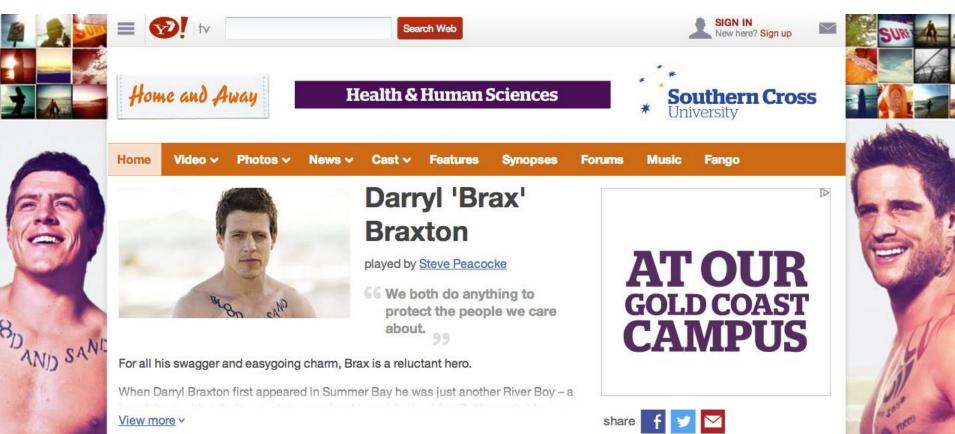
Yahoo! Media

- Schema.org across the Yahoo! Network
 - Article, Photo and Video markup
 - Q&A and Sports under development
- Personalization
 - Based on past reading behavior, Facebook profile, implicit feedback
 - Concepts from a news taxonomy and entity-graph
 - Nicolas Torzec. The Y! Knowledge Base: Making Knowledge Reusable at Yahoo! SemTech 2013



Yahoo!7

- Linking structured and unstructured content
 - Character bio, appearances, related characters...
 - Articles, tweets, quotes, images, video...





Yandex Islands

Check		no Assollat		→
	n for your flight onli			
aeroflot.ru Online reg	/cms/online_registration	n s and closes 45 minutes	before departure. Y	ou can check
aeroflot.ru Online reg in for you	/cms/online_registration istration opens 24 hours	n s and closes 45 minutes	before departure. Y	ou can check
aeroflot.ru Online reg in for you	/cms/online_registration istration opens 24 hours flight if your travel with	n s and closes 45 minutes	before departure. Y	ou can check
online reg in for you Passen	/cms/online_registration istration opens 24 hours flight if your travel with	n s and closes 45 minutes n Aeroflot		ou can check



Yandex Islands

Aeroflot check in Moscow		
		ions
		Action
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Check in for your flight online. A aeroflot.ru/cms/online_registration Online registration opens 24 ho in for your flight if your trav	e mutes	before departure. You can check
Passenger Info		
Name	Departure	City
235	Flight	SU
		Check in



Other Products

Enhanced Snippets for Web Search

 Data for Vertical Search Services (Image Search, Video Search, Ya.Directory, ...)

Data for algorithms
 (schema.org/PeopleAudience, ...)



Links

Docs: http://clck.ru/8sA44

Validator: http://clck.ru/8ridt

Yandex Islands: http://beta.yandex.com

tilid@yandex-team.ru ajax@yandex-team.ru

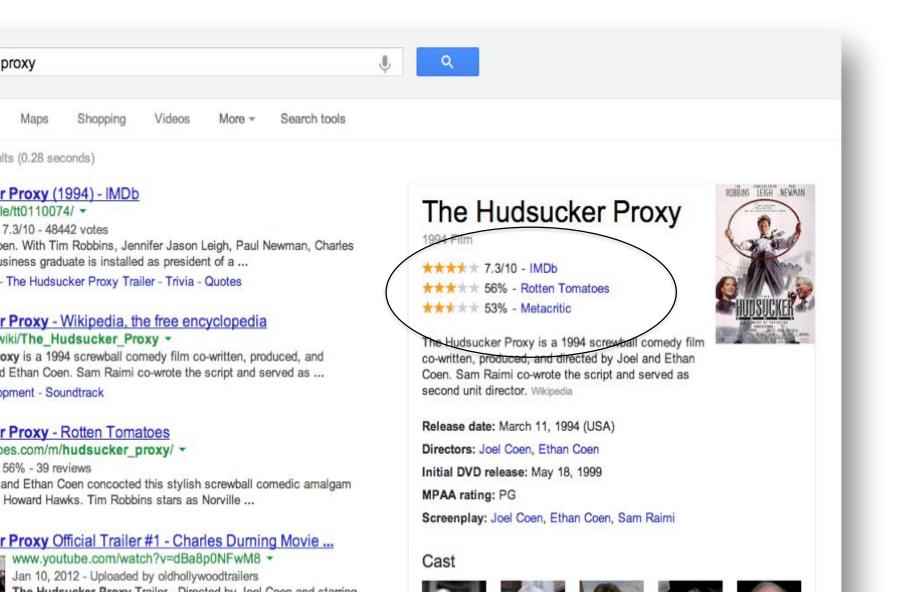
Applications

Applications drive adoption

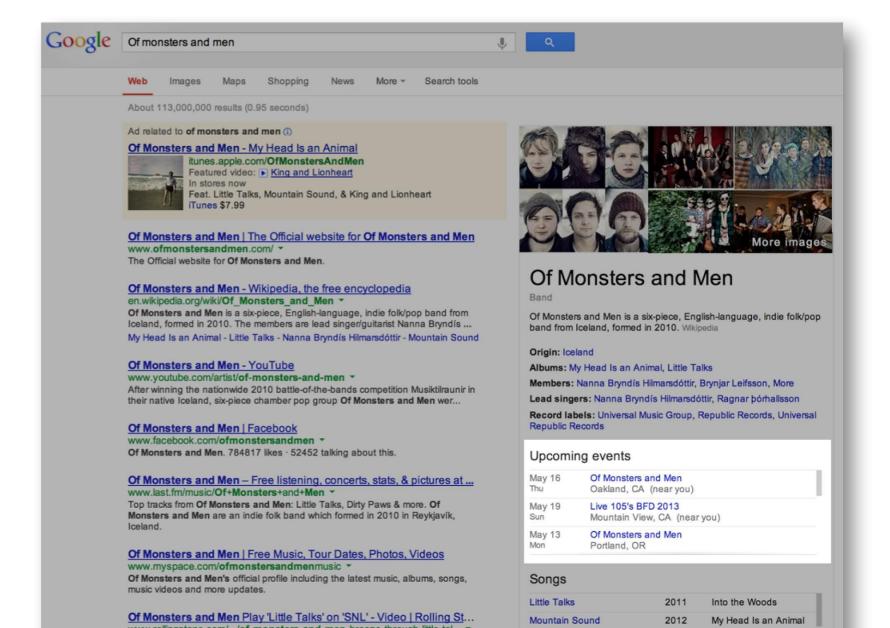
- First generation of applications
 - Rich presentation of search results

- Many new applications are coming up
 - On search page and beyond

Newer Applications: Knowledge Graph

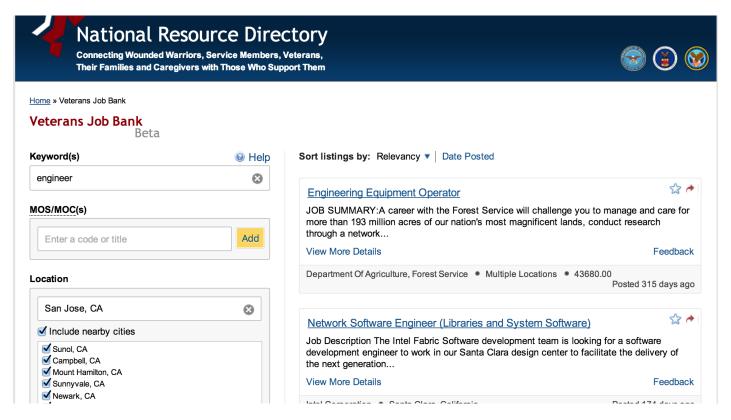


Newer Applications: Knowledge Graph

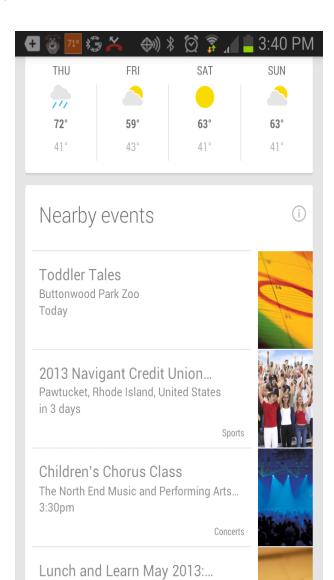


Non web search Applications

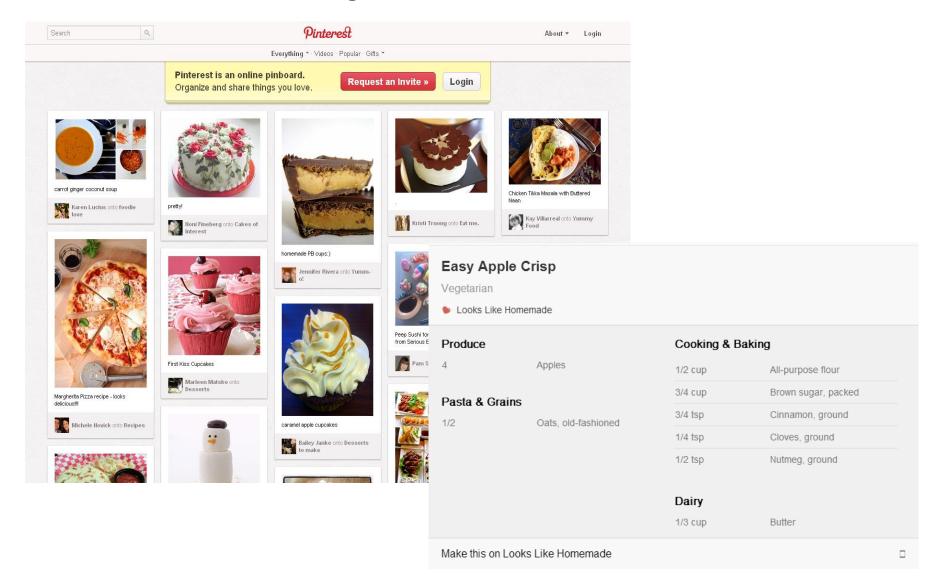
Searching for Veteran friendly jobs



Non search applications: Google Now



Pinterest: Schema.org for Rich Pins



Non search Applications

```
Jul 22
Cascal Reservations < member services@opentable.com>
to RV 🔻
                                                                       <span itemscope
                                                                               itemtype="http://schema.org/Restaurant"
Dear RV,
                                                                               itemid="/restaurant">
Thank you for making your reservation through Yelp. You're dining at Cascal!
                                                                                 Cascal
Invite your party >
                                                                       </span>
--- Your Reservation Details ---
                                                                       <span itemprop="address"</pre>
Diner's name:
                RV Guha
Date:
                Monday, July 22, 2013
                                                                              itemscope
Time:
                8:30 PM
                                                                              itemtype="http://schema.org/PostalAddress">
Party Size:
                                                                             <span itemprop="streetAddress">
                                                                                400 Castro St. Mountain View, CA 94041
Click here to make changes to your reservation.
                                                                              </span>
                                                                      </span>
400 Castro St. Mountain View, CA 94041
Cross Street: California St.
(650) 940-9500
See menus, map & more >
```

Future application

- Clinical trials
 - 4000+ clinical trials at any time in the US alone
 - Almost all the data 'thrown away'
 - All that gets published is a textual 'abstract'
- Over half the trials are redundant
 - Earlier trials have the data
 - Assumptions, etc. cannot be re-examined
 - Longitudinal studies extremely hard, but super

Vocabularies in the pipeline

- Actions (Potential Actions), Events
- Accessibility
- Commerce: Orders, Reservations, ...
- Communication: Fleshing out TV, Radio, Email, Q&A, ...
- Media: Scholarly works, Comics, Serials
- Sports
- and many many more ...

Big initiatives underway

Representing time

- Lot of triples with associated time interval
- Hard to force into the triple model
- Looking at named graphs

Tabular / CSV data

- Census data, Scientific data, etc.
- Need mechanisms for external specification of the meaning of these tables

Research Problems

- Propositional Attitudes
 - Fictional characters
 - Possible actions

- Mapping Entities across sites
 - Billions of entities
 - But hundreds of billions of entity references
 - Very large scale cross site entity mapping

Schema.org: concluding

- Provide webmasters
 - A good reason for adding structured data markup
 - Allow more advanced authors to add much richer markup from many different vocabularies
 - An easy way to do it
- Many different applications emerging
- Many interesting research problems left
- Light at the end of the tunnel

Questions?

MCF

- Introduced the Directed Labeled Graph (DLG) model
- Used to describe site structure
- Provided simple visualization plu
- ~3m downloads, few thousand si (not too bad for '96)
- Documentation was about a page
- Lead to MCF using XML
 (4 pages including diagrams)

97-99: RDF / RDFS

- MCF (4 pages) got renamed to RDF
- Data model becomes a religion
- Lot of new things ... reification, sequences, chains, model theory, ...
- Final version done only by 2002
- RDF Primer is 100 pages long!
- But ... used by very few websites

'99: RSS 0.91

- Netscape needs customizable home page ala my.yahoo
- No \$s to do deals
- Create format and open it up to everyone
 - 2 year target was 5k feeds
 - -14 years later \rightarrow 100m+ feeds

2002: OWL

- Tim BL, et. al. 'Semantic Web' paper
- Answer to lack of adoption: we need more features
- Lots of Darpa and EU funding
- Very powerful solutions ... looking for problems
- ~10 years later ... < 100 sites use it

'04-07: Microformats

- Reaction to the complexity of RDF & OWL
- Retrofitted vCard, etc. into HTML

 hCard
- Adoption by Google & Yahoo! made it wildly successful
- Evolutionary dead-end: no new vocabulary in over 5 yrs.

Lessons

- The RSS story
- Make sure you have your carrot!
 - Carrots work much better than sticks!
- Find the right <u>initial</u> level of generality
- Start simple and iterate fast
- Optimize for flexibility